

CIA Aide Reports Gems Missing Following Visits by Colleagues

By Morton Mintz

Washington Post Staff Writer

An undercover investigation by the Central Intelligence Agency of one of its own high-level officials has brought the

agency another burst of bizarre publicity and serious charges about its methods of operation. The story involves \$20,000 to \$30,000 in jewels discovered missing after a CIA visitation,

an 86-year-old woman in a state of shock and a house in a Georgetown neighborhood abounding with CIA brass.

The official, Hans V. Tofte, said last night that one CIA man, Kenneth R. Slocum, had "snooped" inside his home in an area that was "absolutely off limits" and had then reported what he found like "a good little boy."

Tofte said this was followed by a "stupid cloak and dagger raid" in which his mother-in-law had been bam-boozled.

He said that all of this left him "outraged as a private citizen" and dismayed as a man with pride in the agency at its unprofessional performance.

In a separate interview, his wife Mariys shared her husband's outrage at what she called the "impertinence and ruthlessness" of the young CIA people "plowing through this house."

The account of the episode given by Tofte and his wife was backed by J. C. Chatel, a realtor who shared their anger and is now the owner of the house in question, a 3-story brick residence at 1667 35th st. nw.

But a spokesman for the CIA, Cmdr. John Moran, issued a statement defending the agency's role and saying that Slocum had seen "exposed classified documents in a private home . . . a violation of agency security regulations."

The complex story began in June when Tofte, 59, a World War II underground and commando hero, sold his house to Chatel's real estate firm, which then advertised it for rental or sale.

On July 23, Slocum, of 2811

P st. nw., came with his wife to see about renting a basement apartment.

According to the CIA, Slocum was "not aware of Mr. Tofte's Agency affiliation" and was shown through the property by Tofte's mother-in-law, Charlotte Leister. The Toftes, however, said the couple was shown through by Melita Molloy, a saleswoman for the Chatel firm.

The CIA statement said that "Slocum noticed by chance classified agency material in one of the rooms being shown and reported this promptly to Agency security officials."

But the Toftes said that although Slocum had come to see a basement apartment he got into a third-floor area used by Tofte as a library and which was closed to everyone.

There, Tofte said, he had manuscript material for a textbook and CIA material taken home "by me for the purpose of homework." In a statement given to police last Saturday Tofte said taking papers home "is customary for executives and senior personnel, as well as employees of certain ranks and responsibilities."

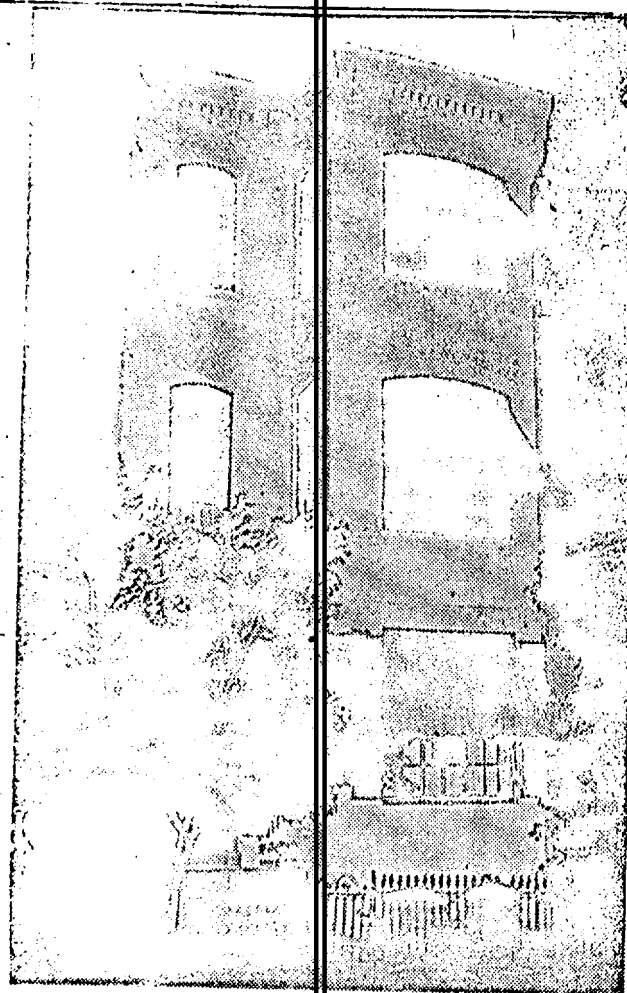
The Agency's contention that Slocum discovered the CIA material by chance was countered by Mrs. Tofte, who said it was securely wrapped in a parcel preparatory to moving, and that the parcel was under a blanket that, in turn, was under a tarpaulin.

On Sunday, July 24, the CIA statement said, the Slocum couple returned to the 35th Street home with "Charles D. Speake, 4570 MacArthur blvd. nw., a security representative of this agency . . ."

"They were again admitted by Mr. Tofte's mother-in-law and took custody of the classified material," the statement continued.

"Subsequently, Mr. Tofte advised a security official of this Agency that some jewelry

Continued



By Bob Burchette, Staff Photographer

STORM CENTER—This is the Georgetown home of CIA official Hans V. Tofte, from which \$20,000 to \$30,000 in jewels are missing following "snooping" by agents from his own agency.